

Message Text

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12

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-07 NSC-06 RSC-01 /023 W

----- 092636

R 200850Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2572

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (ANDERSON, JOHN) EAID PFOR SO US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN ANDERSON'S VISIT TO SOMALIA

1. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION: DURING HIS JANUARY 17-19 VISIT TO SOMALIA, CONGRESSMAN ANDERSON WAS GIVEN TOP-LEVEL TREATMENT BY GSDR WHICH TEATED VISIT AS OCCASION DEMONSTRATE THEIR DESIRE FOR NEW CORDIALITY IN US-SOMALI RELATIONS. VISIT PROVIDED OCCASION FOR SENIOR SOMALI OFFICIALS, NUMBER OF WHOM HAD STUDIED OR TRAVELLED IN US, TO SEE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES IN INFORMAL SETTING FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1969. WE HOPE THIS WILL PRESAGE SOME-WHAT EASIER ACCESS FOR US TO GSDR, THOUGH WE CANNOT RPT NOT EXPECT DUPLICATION IN DAY-TO-DAY DEALINGS OF SPECIAL PRIVILEGES LAID ON FOR DISTINGUISHED CONGRESSMAN WHO CAME AS PERSONAL GUEST OF PRESIDENT SIAD. TREATMENT ACCORDED CONGRESSMAN ANDERSON IS HOWEVER A VISIBLE (IF CHEAP) SIGN OF GOOD WILL. WE WOULD ESTIMATE THAT, WITH CONTINUATION OF US DROUGHT ASSISTANCE (CULMIE AND SEVERAL OTHERS ASKED DURING VISIT WHETHER ADDITIONAL US DROUGHT AID WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.) AND OTHER EVIDENCE OF US BENEVOLENT INTEREST IN SOMALIA, THIS WARMING TREND SHOULD CONTINUE. END SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION.

2. CONGRESSMAN ANDERSON RECEIVED TOP-NOTCH TREATMENT FROM GSDR FROM MOMENT HE ARRIVED FROM NAIROBI IN SPECIAL PLANE PROVIDED BY SOMALIS UNTIL HE WAS SEEN
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OFF AT AIRPORT AT 4:45 A.M. JANUARY 19 BY 1ST VP CULMIE.

CULMIE WAS CONSTANTLY BY HIS SIDE AS ESCORT OFFICER, HE WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT SIAD, AND HIS VISIT WAS GIVEN FRONT-PAGE PUBLICITY IN OFFICIAL PRESS. JAN. 17 DINNER GIVEN BY VP ENABLED CONGRESSMAN TO MEET NUMBER OF SOMALI LEADERS AND CULMIE, SRC MEMBER MOHAMED FARAH WAIS, TRADE SECRETARY MOHAMED MOHAMUD AND OTHER OFFICIALS ATTENDED DINNER FOR ANDERSON AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE, FIRST TIME SINCE 1969 REVOLUTION THAT PERSONS OF THAT STATURE HAD DONE SO.

3. PRESIDENT SIAD, DURING HIS HOUR-LONG TALK WITH ANDERSON JANUARY 18, NOTED THAT THERE ARE MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN US AND SOMALIA. HE SAID THESE HAD BEEN CREATED BY NEWSPAPERS AND MALICIOUS PERSONS AND THAT HE WAS SEEKING TO REMOVE THEM. HE REFERRED IN VERY POSITIVE FASHION TO HIS CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT FORD. HE NOTED HE HAD TOLD PRESIDENT FORD THAT USSR HAD NO BASE IN SOMALIA AND INDEED HAD NOT RPT NOT ASKED FOR ONE. TO GRANT A FOREIGN BASE, SIAD, SAID, WAS TO GIVE UP A PORTION OF ONE'S SOVEREIGNTY. HE WOULD CUT OFF HIS HAND RATHER THAN SIGN SUCH A DOCUMENT. SIAD SAID SOMALIA WANTS TO LIVE AT PEACE WITH EVERYONE, INCLUDING ETHIOPIA, EVEN THOUGH LATTER IS OCCUPYING SOMALI LANDS.

4. SIAD THEN STRESSED SEVERITY OF DROUGHT AFFECTING SOMALIA. HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR US ASSISTANCE AND ASKED CONGRESSMAN ANDERSON TO CONVEY HIS GRATITUDE TO USG. HE SAID HE HAD INDICATED TO PRESIDENT FORD THAT IF US WISHED TO GIVE AID TO SOMALIA, LATTER WOULD BE GRATEFUL, BUT HE RESPECTS RIGHT OF US OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY TO EXTEND OR WITHHOLD AID AS IT SAW FIT.

5. VP CULMIE MADE MANY OF SAME POINTS IN HIS INITIAL

MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN ANDERSON AND IN THEIR TALKS DURING REMAINDER OF VISIT. IN HIS VARIOUS TOASTS AND STATEMENTS DURING CONGRESSMAN'S COUNTRYSIDE TOUR, CULMIE MENTIONED DESIRABILITY OF US-SOMALI FRIENDSHIP, A THEME WHICH SEEMED TO BE WELL RECEIVED BY HIS AUDIENCES. WE FEEL VISIT WAS WELCOMED BY SOMALI GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE AND HAS CONTRIBUTED TO OUR EFFORTS TO SHOW CONCERN FOR WELFARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF SOMALIA.

6. MEMCON BEING POUCHED.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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